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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/749,851

12/30/2003

Ingo Zenz

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EXAMINER

RAYYAN, SUSAN F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/749,851

Applicant(s)

ZENZ, INGO

Examiner

Susan F. Rayyan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/30/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-22 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-13, 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0124082 issued to Ramon J. San Andres et al (“San Andres”).

As per claim 1 San Andres anticipates:

a plurality of server nodes communicatively coupled on a network to serve applications over the network to a plurality of clients (paragraph 6, Figures 1-2);

a data object to store a hierarchical representation of configuration data associated with the server nodes, the data object having a root and a plurality of nodes branching from the root (paragraph 20, Figure 2);

a property sheet data structure logically positioned at one of the nodes,

the property sheet data structure including a plurality of property names, a

plurality of non-modifiable parameters and a plurality of modifiable parameters,

wherein each respective property name included in the property sheet data

structure is associated with a non-modifiable parameter and, optionally, a

modifiable parameter (paragraphs 65, 165 and Figure 6).

San Andres teaches a plurality of server nodes communicatively coupled on a network to serve applications over the network to a plurality of clients, a data object to store a hierarchical representation of configuration data associated with the server nodes, the data object having a root and a plurality of nodes branching from the root; a property sheet data structure logically positioned at one of the nodes, the property sheet data structure including a plurality of property names, a plurality of non-modifiable parameters and a plurality of modifiable parameters, wherein each respective property name included in the property sheet data structure is associated with a non-modifiable parameter and, optionally, a modifiable parameter (paragraphs 6,20,65,165, Figures 1-2,6).

As per claim 2, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: wherein the data object is stored within a central database accessible by each of the server nodes (Figure 1).

As per claim 3, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: a user interface to display contents of the property sheet data structure, the user interface to enable a user to modify a selected modifiable parameter associated with the property sheet data structure, wherein, once the selected modifiable parameter has been modified, the modified parameter is stored independently with respect to the non-modifiable parameters in the property sheet data structure(paragraphs 65-67,149,165).

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As per claim 4, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: wherein the non-modifiable parameters associated with the property sheet data structure are modifiable using an interface other than the user interface (paragraph 168).

As per claim 5, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: wherein the property sheet data structure is associated with a particular component or a set of components contained within a clustered system (paragraph 168).

As per claim 6, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: a first dialog box to display contents of the property sheet data structure, the first dialog box including a plurality of entry rows, each respective entry row of the first dialog box including a first column to display names of corresponding properties, a second column to display configuration parameters associated with corresponding properties and a third column to indicate if a configuration parameter displayed in the second column is a default parameter or a custom parameter (paragraphs 126,186 and Figure 2); a second dialog box including a data entry field to enable a user to modify a selected custom parameter(paragraph 168).

As per claim 7, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates:
wherein a custom parameter associated with a property is modifiable by selecting the second dialog box of the corresponding property and entering a new parameter in the data entry field of the second dialog box (paragraph 165).

As per claim 8, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates:
wherein the second dialog box of the corresponding property is selected by clicking a custom check box inside the third column of a corresponding entry row (paragraphs 126,165).

As per claim 9, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates:
wherein the second dialog box further includes a name field to display a name of a corresponding property and a default field to display a default configuration parameter associated with the corresponding property(paragraphs 126, 165).

As per claim 10, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates:
the second dialog box further includes a data type field to display the data type associated with corresponding property (Figure 5, property types).

As per claim 11 San Andres anticipates:
storing binaries and configuration data (Figure 6a) associated with a plurality of server nodes within a data object to store a hierarchical representation

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of configuration data associated with the server nodes, the data object having a root and a plurality of nodes branching from the root (paragraph 20, Figure 1-2 and paragraph 6);

providing one or more property sheets at one or more of the nodes, each of the property sheets including a plurality of configuration parameters associated with the server nodes, each parameter associated with a name, a default parameter and optionally a custom parameter, and updating the configuration of one of the server nodes by entering a custom configuration parameter in a property sheet associated with the server node (paragraphs 126,186 and Figure 2).

As per claim 12, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: storing the data object, configuration data, binaries and property sheets within a central database, the central database accessible by the server nodes (Figure 1).

As per claim 13, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: opening the property sheet in a property sheet graphical user interface, the graphical user interface comprising a first column for storing parameter names, a second column for storing a current parameter value and a third column for storing an indication as to whether the current parameter value is a custom value(paragraph s 126,186 and Figures 2,5);

selecting the indication in the third column, responsively generating a data entry window having a custom field for entering a custom value and entering a custom value in the custom field(paragraph 165).

As per claim 18 San Andres anticipates:

server node means communicatively coupled on a network, the server node means to serve applications over the network to a plurality of clients(paragraphs 6,20, Figure 2);

hierarchical data object means to store a hierarchical representation of configuration data associated with the server nodes, the hierarchical data object means having a root and a plurality of nodes branching from the root (paragraph 20, Figure 2);

property sheet means logically positioned at one of the nodes, the property sheet means including a plurality of property names, a plurality of non-modifiable parameters and a plurality of modifiable parameters, wherein each respective property name included in the property sheet means is associated with a non-modifiable parameter and, optionally, a modifiable parameter (paragraphs 65,165 and Figure 6).

San Andres teaches server node means communicatively coupled on a network, the server node means to serve applications over the network to a plurality of clients, hierarchical data object means to store a hierarchical representation of configuration data associated with the server nodes, the hierarchical data object

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means having a root and a plurality of nodes branching from the root and property sheet means logically positioned at one of the nodes, the property sheet means including a plurality of property names, a plurality of non-modifiable parameters and a plurality of modifiable parameters, wherein each respective property name included in the property sheet means is associated with a non-modifiable parameter and, optionally, a modifiable parameter (paragraphs 6,20,65,165 and Figure 1-2).

As per claim 19, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: wherein the hierarchical data object means is stored within a central database accessible by each of the server nodes(Figure 1).

As per claim 20, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: user interface means to display contents of the property sheet data structure, the user interface means to enable a user to modify a selected modifiable parameter associated with the property sheet means, wherein, once the selected modifiable parameter has been modified, the modified parameter is stored independently with respect to the non-modifiable parameters in the property sheet means(paragraphs 65-67,149,165).

As per claim 21, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates: wherein the non-modifiable parameters associated with the property sheet means are not user-modifiable via the user interface(paragraph 168).

As per claim 22, same as claim arguments above and San Andres anticipates:
wherein the property sheet means is associated with a particular component or a set of components contained within the server node means(paragraph 168).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0124082 issued to Ramon J. San Andres et al ("San Andres") in view of US Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0148183 issued to Waqar Sadiq ("Sadiq").

As per claim 14, same as claim arguments above and San Andres does not explicitly teach wherein the server nodes are Java server nodes supporting the Java 2 Enterprise Edition ("J2EE") standard and wherein the property sheet parameters comprise J2EE parameters. Sadiq does teach wherein the server nodes are Java server nodes supporting the Java 2 Enterprise Edition ("J2EE") standard and wherein the property sheet parameters comprise J2EE parameters (paragraph 18, property sheet and paragraphs 104,140, J2EE) to provide efficient communication. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify San Andres

with wherein the server nodes are Java server nodes supporting the Java 2 Enterprise Edition ("J2EE") standard and wherein the property sheet parameters comprise J2EE parameters to provide efficient communication.

Claim 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0124082 issued to Ramon J. San Andres et al ("San Andres") in view of US Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0069272 issued to Steven D. Kim ("Kim").

As per claim 15 San Andres teaches:

modifying configuration parameters within a property sheet, the configuration parameters associated with one or more server nodes within the plurality of server nodes (paragraph 149,165);
storing the property sheet within a configuration hierarchy defined by a hierarchical configuration data object in a central database (paragraphs 20,168, Figures 1-2).

San Andres does not explicitly teach communicating an indication of the modification to one or more other server nodes, identifying in the data object the modified configuration parameters within the property sheet and determining if the configuration data stored on the other server nodes is out-of-date, downloading the modified configuration data from the central database to the other server nodes if the configuration data stored on the other server nodes is out-of-date. Kim does teach communicating an indication of the modification to one or more other server nodes

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(paragraph 34), identifying in the data object the modified configuration parameters within the property sheet and determining if the configuration data stored on the other server nodes is out-of-date (paragraph 35), downloading the modified configuration data from the central database to the other server nodes if the configuration data stored on the other server nodes is out-of-date (paragraph 11,35) to improve speed and efficiency of matching server configuration (paragraph 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify San Andres with communicating an indication of the modification to one or more other server nodes, identifying in the data object the modified configuration parameters within the property sheet and determining if the configuration data stored on the other server nodes is out-of-date, downloading the modified configuration data from the central database to the other server nodes if the configuration data stored on the other server nodes is out-of-date to improve speed and efficiency of matching server configuration (paragraph 10).

As per claim 16 same as claim arguments above and San Andres teaches:

acquiring a lock on the configuration parameters stored within the property sheet prior to modifying the configuration parameters at the first server node (paragraphs 151-152).

As per claim 17, same as claim arguments above and San Andres teaches:

releasing the lock on the configuration parameters after the configuration data has been updated at the central database and/or at each of the server nodes (paragraphs 151-152).

Contact Information


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Rayyan whose telephone number is (571) 272-1675. The examiner can normally be reached M-F: 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Susan Rayyan

June 20, 2006


JOHN R. COTTINGHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER